

GEA 003
Amendment dated 04/08/2005

09/750,350

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Reply to office action mailed 10/08/2004

The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

Listing of claims:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method whereby a contractor uses displays
2 generated by a computer to assist the contractor in managing manage activities
3 of a plurality of subcontractors of goods and services for one or more complex
4 device commissioned by a manufacturer, the method comprising the following
5 steps:
6 ~~the contractor contracting with a manufacturer to build one or more~~
7 ~~devices,~~
8 ~~the manufacturer contracting with the plurality of subcontractors to~~
9 ~~supply the manufacturer with goods and services that the manufacturer will~~
10 ~~utilize in constructing the devices,~~
11 ~~once construction of any one of the devices begins,~~ executing a
12 real-time computer program in the computer, the computer program providing
13 a display having a status location on said display for a status for each
14 subcontractor, said status being drawn from a pre-defined set, including one or
15 more where the status represents a problem and is unresolved and one where
16 the status is resolved.
17 the computer program changing a visible attribute of the status location
18 assigned to a particular subcontractor whenever that subcontractor accesses
19 the computer and reports a change in status by selecting a status from said pre-
20 defined set,

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21 the computer program providing a second display showing for each
22 unresolved status how widespread is the problem represented by the status;
23 and
24 the computer program providing a third display permitting for each
25 unresolved status on-line review and approval by a manager of the contractor
26 of said change in status reported by said subcontractor
27 the computer program changing a status indicator on a display to
28 reflect the change in the status location, and
29 the contractor or persons designated by the contractor monitoring the
30 display of subcontractor activities.

- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the device is a satellite.
- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the computer is accessed
2 through an extranet site via the Internet.
- 1 4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the display is an electronic
2 dashboard.
- 1 5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the report of change
2 is made by using a click box.
- 1 6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein an electronic notice
2 of change is sent to a contractor-selected list of recipients whenever any
3 change is entered reported.
- 1 7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said third display for
2 on-line review and approval by a manager of the contractor includes choices

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3 for a) approval or disapproval, b) requesting more information, or c) making
4 no decision the contractor has a manager who may, at his or her discretion,
5 make a choice to approve or disapprove any request for change, may request
6 more information, or may make no decision.

1 8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the choices are contained on a
2 computerized menu.

1 9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein pre-defined set of
2 status changes are designated to be of different classes.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the classes are designated as
2 "No Change", "Minor Change", and "Major Change".

1 11. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein each class is indicated on the
2 display by a color different from the color used to indicate any other change.

1 12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein green indicates the "No
2 Change" class, yellow indicates the "Minor Change" class, and red indicates
3 the "Major Change" class.

1 13. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein all changes are recorded in a
2 database.

1 14. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein persons selected by the
2 contractor are sent a reminder whenever there is a status change for which no
3 action has been reported by the manager.

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- 1 15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the reminders are made daily.
- 1 16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the reminders are made until
2 the manager either takes action or closes the status change.
- 1 17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the status change is closed
2 after passage of a contractor-selected period of time.
- 1 18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein closing the status change is
2 indicated by a change of color of a status indicator on the display.
- 1 19. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step
2 of providing system security to ensure that a particular subcontractor can load
3 only that data and view that information which pertains to the devices being
4 constructed or services being provided by that subcontractor.
- 1 20. (original) The method of claim 19 providing system security by password
2 protection.
- 1 21. (currently amended) A computer-implemented project management
2 system for monitoring the activities of a plurality of subcontractors and service
3 providers commissioned by one or more manufacturers of one or more
4 complex devices, the system comprising:
5 a computer;
6 a display;
7 software for execution in the computer;
8 the software aggregating the status of one or more manufacturers of
9 devices;

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10 ~~the manufacturers having agreed with a contractor to construct and~~
11 ~~supply the contractor with the devices,~~
12 ~~the subcontractors having agreed with the manufacturers to supply~~
13 ~~specialized goods or services as may be needed to manufacture the devices,~~
14 ~~initiating execution of the computer software after construction of the~~
15 ~~devices begins,~~
16 ~~the computer software comprising:~~
17 ~~instructions for changing a status indicator on the display whenever the~~
18 ~~subcontractor accesses the computer to update a status location to reflect~~
19 ~~changes or issues~~
20 computer software for providing a display having a location on said
21 display for a status for each subcontractor, said status being drawn from a pre-
22 defined set, including one or more where the status represents a problem and
23 is unresolved and one where the status is resolved,
24 computer software for changing a visible attribute of the status location
25 assigned to a particular subcontractor whenever that subcontractor accesses
26 the computer and reports a change in status by selecting a status from said pre-
27 defined set,
28 computer software for providing a second display showing for each
29 unresolved status how widespread is the problem represented by the status;
30 and
31 computer software for providing a third display permitting for each
32 unresolved status on-line review and approval by a manager of the contractor
33 of said change in status reported by said subcontractor.

1 22. (original) The system of claim 21 wherein the computer software runs in
2 real time.

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- 1 23. (original) The system of claim 22 wherein the display is an electronic
- 2 dashboard.

- 1 24. (original) The system of claim 23 wherein the device is a satellite.

- 1 25. (original) The system of claim 24 wherein each manufacturer, before
- 2 construction can begin, must provide information on all subcontractors and the
- 3 materials or services each might supply.

- 1 26. (original) The system of claim 25 wherein the dashboard shows the status
- 2 of each satellite under construction, the expected date of shipment from the
- 3 factory for each satellite, and the status of the project for each critical
- 4 subsystem of the satellite.

- 1 27. (original) The system of claim 26 wherein each subcontractor may access
- 2 the system through an extranet site via the Internet to inform the contractor of
- 3 a change in project status for that subcontractor.

- 1 28. (currently amended) The system of claim 27 further comprising wherein
- 2 system security ~~ensures~~ for ensuring that a subcontractor can load only that
- 3 data and view that information which pertains to the satellites being
- 4 constructed by the subcontractor.

- 1 29. (currently amended) The system of claim 28 wherein said system security
- 2 is provided by password protection

- 1 30. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein each project status is indicated
- 2 by a color different from that used to indicate any other project status.

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1 31. (original) The system of claim 27 wherein the contractor has a manager
2 who may click on a status indicator on the display, which click results in a
3 subsidiary screen being displayed, which subsidiary screen provides in detail
4 and in summary the nature of the change indicated by the status change.

1 32. (currently amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the subsidiary
2 screen is said third display which is the On Line Review and Approval screen.

1 33. (original) The system of claim 31 wherein the manager reviews any
2 information and either approves or disapproves the change on-line.

1 34. (currently amended) The system of claim 27 wherein said manager of the
2 contractor ~~has a manager~~ who may click on a status indicator on the display
3 which click results in a subsidiary screen being displayed, which subsidiary
4 screen provides, in detail and in summary, information from which screen the
5 manager may determine if any subcontractor is supplying the same
6 components or materials to other device manufacturers.

1 35. (original) The system of claim 34 wherein the information from the
2 screen permits the manager to evaluate the potential impact of the
3 subcontractor's supplying the same components to other device manufacturers.

1 36. (currently amended) The system of claim 34 wherein the subsidiary
2 screen is said second display which is the Subcontractor Early Alert screen.

1 37. (currently amended) A method for project management of complex
2 construction projects comprising:

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3 dividing the project into subprojects,
4 requiring those persons responsible for each subproject to supply a
5 report to a project manager whenever any events occur or are anticipated to
6 occur which events may delay completion of the project as scheduled,
7 using a computer system comprised of hardware and software to
8 receive the reports,
9 executing the computer software in real time,
10 displaying a status for each subproject on a display device, said status
11 being drawn from a pre-defined set, including one or more where the status
12 represents a problem and is unresolved and one where the status is resolved,
13 having the project manager monitor the display device and any
14 status-display thereon to assist the project manager in determining how to ~~deal~~
15 ~~with events that may delay completion of the project as scheduled~~ resolve an
16 unresolved status.